



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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ARMED ST. PETERSBURG CRACK DEALER SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS

Tampa, Florida - U.S. District Judge James D. Whittemore today sentenced Eder Vivies, age 24, to a term of imprisonment of 25 years, for possessing with intent to distribute more than five grams of crack cocaine and for possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. Vivies pleaded guilty to the charges On September 30, 2008.

According to court documents, this case arose from an incident in St. Petersburg on June 29, 2008. Officers of the St. Petersburg Police Department (SPPD) heard a gunshot while on patrol, near midnight, in the area of 5th Avenue and Martin Luther King Boulevard. The officers found Vivies nearby. Vivies fled on a bicycle and removed a Glock handgun from his waistband. After a chase, the officers apprehended Vivies.

The officers found Vivies in possession of a loaded Glock handgun, seven grams of crack cocaine (broken into approximately fifty pieces), \$476 in cash, and two cellular telephones. Vivies initially gave a false name. During a post-Miranda interview, Vivies admitted firing the shot heard by the officers and possessing the crack cocaine.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative supported by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). United States Attorney

A. Brian Albritton, along with Virginia O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge, ATF Tampa Field Division, is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and the St. Petersburg Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher F. Murray.